



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 23, 2000

Bill E. Ruehman  
TRC Mineral Processing Division  
12320 East Skelly Drive  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128

Re: Acceptance of Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations. Rockland Mine Project, S/015/085, Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Ruehman:

Thank you for your Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations and initial \$100.00 permit application fee, received by the Division on May 15, 2000. The application for the proposed Rockland Mine Project, located in the SW 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 2, T23S, R6E, SLBM, Emery County, Utah is complete; however, additional information is needed to complete the files on this Notice.

This mine was operated previously by the Miracle Rock Mining & Research in conjunction with their mining venture on associated SITLA leases (ML 42844 and ML 42844A). Because the two leases are in such close proximity, it is difficult to ascertain which disturbances are associated with which lease. The Division requests that TRC supply a map showing the extent of the disturbances that will become their responsibility under this notice. During my conversation with you on May 22, you indicated that the disturbances were made by Mr. Dave Taylor while he was operating the mine in behalf of TRC. This notice will transfer the responsibility for the reclamation of the disturbances associated with ML 42844A to TRC.

The Division questions the need for the confidentiality of the information contained in this Notice. All the information concerning this mine and the associated workings is presently in a publicly accessed file S/015/040, which is Mr. Dave Taylor's Miracle Rock Mining & Research mining notice. Please advise the Division as to what portion (if any) of this Notice should remain confidential.

The variance section was not marked. Therefore, by accepting this application, the Division will interpret this to mean that no variances are required and will expect TRC to conduct mining activities in compliance with the Operation and Reclamation Practices of Rules R647-3-107, 108, and 109, as outlined on pages 3 and 4 of the notice. If the operator cannot comply with these practices/performance standards, then a variance request must be provided to, and formally approved by the Division. Variance requests must include all of the information as required under Rule R647-3-110. A variance request is not required for practices which refer to features which are nonexistent at the project site.

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The Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975 [40-8-7(I)] provides the authority for fee implementation which was approved by the Utah Legislature at its 1998 session. Commencing July 1, 1998, the fees are assessed to new and existing notices of intention, and annually thereafter. Small Mining Notices require a \$100.00 annual fee. It is the Division policy that new fees received within 45 days of the next fiscal year (July 1 - June 30), will be posted toward the next fiscal year. Therefore, you should not receive a billing statement for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. If you do receive a billing statement, please contact Joelle Burns at (801) 538-5291 so it can be corrected.

For your reference, I have enclosed copies of our summarized rules regarding "Operation and Reclamation Practices," and the statutory penalty for failure to reclaim a minesite (SMO-1). Please give special consideration to item #10 of the "Operation and Reclamation Practices. Stockpiling topsoil material prior to beginning your mining operation will help ensure successful revegetation efforts upon final reclamation of the minesite. If the area being mined is a solid rock outcrop, or if the land surface is very rocky, then soil stockpiling is probably not possible. However, even the first few inches of undeveloped material is worth saving to aid in later revegetation efforts, and future regulatory release from reclamation requirements.

Should you wish to expand your operation beyond the five (5) acre limitation, please notify this office as soon as possible to discuss the necessary permitting requirements. Approval of a large mining notice could take from six to twelve months or longer.

Approval of mineral exploration or mining operations by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining does not constitute approval to commence operations upon state lands or mineral leases administered by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration or federal mining leases managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the US Forest Service. Before conducting mining operations on these lands, the operator must provide written notification, meet bonding requirements, and obtain written approval from the appropriate agency. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration can be reached at: 675 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102; phone number (801) 538-5100.

Thank you for your cooperation. When in the area, a member of the Division staff will examine the site. Best wishes with your mining operation.

Sincerely,



Doug Jensen  
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb  
Enclosure  
cc: John Blake, SITLA  
Tracking File  
S15-85-noi